GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3069
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2001
PER CAPITA EXTERNAL LOAN
SUNDAR LAL PATWA

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita external loan burden on the country as on date:

(b) the amount that had to be borne on payment of interest on the said loan during the last three years and during the current financial year; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to reduce it?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BAiASAHEB VIKHE PATIL):

(a) India`s per capita foreign debt on September 30, 2000 is estimated at Rs. 4504 or US Dollar 97.7 equivalent.

(b) Interest payments on external debt of the country during the last three years are as under:

Year	US Dollar million
1997-98	4391
1998-99	4781
1999-2000	4912

(c) The position regarding interest burden related to India`s external debt has considerably improved in recentyears. Thus, interest payments to current receipts ratio declined from a high of 15.5 per cent in 1990-91 to 7.2 per cent in 1999-2000. Such improvement has been possible due to a prudent debt management policy followed by the Government that focused on high growth rate of exports, keeping the maturity structure as well as the total commercial debt under manageable limits, limiting short-term debt, and encouraging non-debt creating financial flows.